

proportion of the University of Toronto men who enlisted began their service in one or other of these units.

At the end of the session the University sustained losses which made its members realise with greater intensity the cost of the war. Edward Kylie, whose promise as scholar and teacher was already finding rich fulfilment, died in May while in training at Owen Sound; and not many days later the casualty reports from Sanctuary Wood and Mount Sorrel announced the deaths of many whose records are given in this book. In the list also was the name of one who, though not himself a member of the University, was well known to many here—Victor Van der Smissen, the only son of his parents, who fell in action on June 13th.

1916-1917

At the opening of the next session the attendance of men students was reduced by 600, and before the end of January another 600 had left. This year was passed under conditions similar to those of the previous session. To those watching the casualty lists there was no relief. The Somme campaign continued through October and November; there was a short respite during the winter months, but the session closed while the fighting round Vimy and Lens was in progress.

In view of the call for service at home by all those who could not enlist, the University held in January 1917 a registration of all its students, both men and women, in order to ascertain their physical condition and their willingness to do national work during the following summer. Very few men were found to be fit for active service, so that when some months later the Military Service Act came into force, even on a lowered standard it had no appreciable effect in the University. 220 of the men in attendance had volunteered for overseas service and had been rejected, and most of the others had some physical defect. Nearly all stated their willingness to do national service, more particularly in agriculture and munitions, and there is reason to believe that all these promises were fulfilled in the following vacation. Of the remainder some, who had been under age in 1916, enlisted, and most of the others were not fit for service in any of the usual forms.

The C.O.T.C. continued its work, but on a considerably reduced establishment, since by this time most of its original members had gone overseas. Of the 500 enrolled in the Corps most were freshmen. The Overseas Training Company was quartered in Burwash Hall, Victoria College, and the 67th Battery, after summer training at Niagara and Petawawa, spent the winter at Exhibition Camp.

In the course of the session two special Convocations were held, the first on January 23rd, 1917, to confer the honorary degree of LL.D. on The Duke of Devonshire, the new Governor-General, and the second